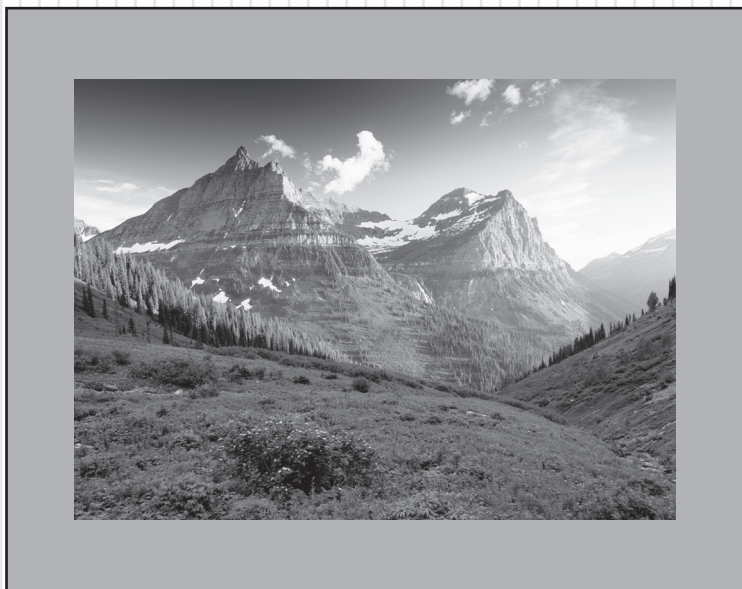


Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 7

2006



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Reading

Session 1

Albert Einstein is one of the most well-known scientists of all time. Read this story about Albert Einstein's trip aboard the sailboat Fleet Felix, and then answer the questions that follow.

The Day I Rescued Albert Einstein's Compass

Shulamith Levey Oppenheim

IF YOU ARE lucky, something special will happen to you in your life that you will never forget. Something so special, you know it could have happened only to you. For me, it was the day I rescued Albert Einstein's compass.

It was Sunday morning. As I came downstairs I heard someone playing the violin. The living room doors were slightly ajar. My mother and father were waiting for me.

My father said to me, "Do you remember, Theo, about five years ago, when you were seven years old and you met our dear friend Herr Professor Einstein? I told you then that he was the most famous man alive."

"Yes, I do, Papa," I said. "And I asked you why he was the most famous man alive, and you said because he is a great physicist who has made important discoveries." I looked at my father. "Is he *here*, Papa?"

My father nodded. "Yes, he is here. He is playing the violin."

Suddenly the doors to the living room flew open, and a deep voice said with a chuckle, "The last time I was here, your father assured you that I did not bite. And as your father and I have been close friends for many years, he knows that I still do not bite." And he chuckled even louder.

I looked up. There was the thick, black mustache and the large head with gray-black hair bushing out all around. There were the eyes, dark and merry. He hadn't changed, although he seemed much less formidable than he had five years ago. Perhaps because I was older now.

Herr Einstein laid his violin at the side of the piano. "Now, young man, let us get immediately to business. Your parents tell me that you have a sailboat. I, too, have loved sailing all my life.

Will you take me out in your boat? It is a most beautiful day."

I looked at my parents. Take the most famous man alive sailing in my sailboat! My neck and cheeks felt hot. My mother looked very pleased. "Our guest is an experienced sailor, and so are you. We think it would be lovely for the two of you to go out on the lake. It will be something you'll always remember."

And the most famous man alive put his hand on my shoulder. "Then let us be off."

...

We put on the orange life jackets I kept in a giant tin drum by the end of the pier. Then I stepped into the boat. My crew of one untied the rope, coiled it up, and came aboard. He took over the tiller, and I held the sheet.

We were off! There was an easy breeze. We followed the shoreline. The clouds were pink cotton puffs, and the sky was as blue as my mother's eyes.

I decided that this was a perfect time to ask my question. I'd been thinking about it ever since I walked into the living room. I took a deep breath.

"Yes?" asked Herr Professor Einstein.

Of course, he would know I was going to ask a question. He was the most famous man alive!

I asked my question slowly. "Why did you want to be a physicist?"

He didn't answer my question. Instead, he put his hand into his pocket. "It has fallen through a hole in the lining!" And he threw back his great head and laughed and laughed. What? The greatest man alive had a hole in his pocket! I was glad it made him laugh, but I didn't quite understand.

"Excuse me, Herr Professor, but what has fallen through a hole in your pocket?" I asked politely.

"The answer to your question. That is what has fallen through the hole! *Himmel!* Heavens! I think it is somewhere under the pocket now . . . one minute, one minute, I must tear the lining . . . a little more . . . a little more . . . There! Now I shall fish it out, only it won't be a fish but . . ." By this time, I was laughing, too. He drew out his hand. Between his fingers was a compass!

"Now I'll tell you a story," said my friend softly.

I looked up at the sky. Two red-tailed hawks were riding the warm air currents—the thermals. *Fleet Felix* was catching the breeze perfectly. My friend's voice was very low.

"When I was five years old, I was quite ill. I had to stay in bed for many days. My father gave me this compass." He peered at me. "You know what a compass is for, of course?" I nodded. "Good." He continued, "It was the first compass I had ever seen. There was the needle, under glass, all alone, pointing north no matter which way I turned the compass. To a five-year-old boy, it seemed like magic. Only it wasn't magic at all. Of course you know why."

. . .

At that moment a large motorboat zoomed past us, stirring up the water into high waves. One of them hit *Fleet Felix* smack against the side, knocking the compass from the professor's hand, right into the water!

He stared at his empty palm. "The compass, Theo. It is gone! Overboard?" Suddenly there was so much sadness in his eyes. "I should hate to lose it. And I cannot swim very well . . . and my eyesight is not good . . ." His voice trailed off, and he was looking far into space.

But *I* could swim! In a split second I dropped anchor into the water to keep the boat in place. I pulled off my life jacket. The waves had quieted down now. The compass would float. If I were lucky.

I jumped into the water.

My parents were sure I'd been a fish before I was a boy. Now was my chance to prove it! First, I swam round and round the boat. Then I dove under, searching beneath the hull once, twice, three

times, staying under as long as my breath held.

Then I started swimming farther away from the boat. Under and under and round and round. No compass. I had to find it! Herr Professor Einstein might be the most famous man alive right now, but he was once five years old, and his father had given him a compass that he had treasured all these years. I thought about the splendid binoculars my parents had given me and how I would feel if I lost them.

I made another dive under the boat. As I came up for air, I felt something ever so gently hit my cheek. It was the compass, bobbing alongside *Fleet Felix*, just waiting to be rescued! Clutching it in my left hand, I grabbed hold of the boat with my right. Professor Einstein's eyes were closed.

"Pardon me," I called to him. "Pardon me, here is your compass!" And I clambered aboard.

He opened his eyes. "So," he said with a smile, "this is why I became a physicist," continuing just as if nothing had happened. "As you know, a physicist studies the forces in nature that we cannot know directly, only we know they are there from what we observe, like the compass needle or . . .," he paused.

"Or gravity?" I offered, a bit tentatively.

"Bravo, young man. Or gravity. All these forces keep our planet running quite smoothly most of the time. And thank you, dear Theo. For me, you are the most famous boy alive!"

His eyes were merry again. I was still trying to catch my breath, but I had to ask another question. "Would you say it is because of the compass that you are now the most famous man alive?"

He sat very still. "The compass was my first mystery, and all my life I have worked to solve mysteries." He put the compass in his pocket—the one with the hole in it. "And I am *not* the most famous man alive, no matter what your dear father says. But you are surely the bravest and kindest boy I know."

22. Explain how Theo feels about being in the company of the “most famous man alive.” Use details from throughout the story to support your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response thoroughly explains how Theo feels about being the company of the “most famous man alive.” Response is developed and includes specific details from the story as support.
3	Response explains how Theo feels about being in the company of the “most famous man alive.” Response lacks some development and/or specific details from the story as support.
2	Response partially explains how Theo feels about being in the company of the “most famous man alive.” Response lacks development and specific details from the story as support.
1	Response gives a minimal or vague idea of how Theo feels.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

A thorough response will include most of the thoughts and behaviors listed below with sufficient details from the story as support.

Thoughts and behavior that shows how Theo feels . . .	Details from throughout the story as support.
Einstein appeared less formidable to Theo	Theo realized he had grown, so Einstein, although his appearance had not changed much, seemed less intimidating.
His neck and cheeks felt hot.	He was embarrassed or insecure about taking the “most famous man alive” on his sailboat.
He feels honored.	He asked Einstein why he wanted to become a physicist. He had been waiting to ask him since he saw him in the living room. He also made the effort to swim after the dropped compass. He knew that Einstein cherished his compass much like Theo had cherished his old binoculars.
He thought Einstein was humorous.	He laughed as Einstein fished his compass from his pocket and joked about it not being an actual fish.

Accept other thoughts and behaviors that are supported by information in the story.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

I think he was excited and nervous because he didn't want to do something wrong in front of the most famous man alive. When they are leaving to go sailing I think he was nervous because his cheeks and neck felt hot. Later while they were sailing I think he started to feel more comfortable because he finally asked the question he had been wanting to ask ever since he saw him in the living room. As the day went on I think he felt sorry for Einstein because when his compass fell in the water he had lost something that meant so much to him. Towards the end I think he felt brave because he had just found the compass for Einstein.

Thoroughly explains Theo's feelings about being with Albert Einstein, supported with specific details from the story.

Theo is excited to be in the company of the most famous man alive. He is enthusiastic that the most famous man would be riding in his sailboat. His neck and cheeks felt hot because he was to show off a few of his skills to Albert Einstein. He is also puzzled by the fact that the most famous man alive has to take so long to answer his question. He realizes later why the professor did this. Later he feels that he relates, or has something in common with the great Albert Einstein. This similarity is that they both got a gift from their guardians, that they cherished and appreciated. I think that later, he thinks that Albert really is the most famous man alive, and perhaps the greatest as well because he called him the kindest and bravest kid he knows. Also I think he feels more comfortable around Albert too because now, he knows he shares something with him, saved something very dear to him, and is no longer afraid of Albert Einstein. That is how I think Theo felt being in the company of the most famous man.

Thoroughly explains Theo's feelings about being with Albert Einstein, supported with specific details from the story.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

Theo feels brave and proud. He thinks Einstein is funny and comical. He has fun with Einstein and is glad he gets to take him sailing. When Einstein lost his compass he felt bad and knew he would have to use something he treasured. After Theo found the compass he was happy and glad to help Einstein. He felt good and loyal and felt pride around Einstein. He was glad he knew Einstein and could help him. At first he felt weird being around a famous person but later on he got to like Einstein. He was happy in the end and glad he could help Einstein and learn more about him.

Response explains Theo's feelings about being with Albert Einstein but lacks some development/specific details from the story as support.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

Theo felt very pleased to be in the company of the most famous man alive. He seemed to be very excited to take him sailing on his sail boat; "My neck and cheeks felt hot." When Einstein and Theo were out on the boat and they were discussing the compass Einstein told Theo about how he thought the compass was magic. That was Einstein's first thing he wanted to discover why the pin always pointed to the north. But when the compass fell he felt honored that he could save Einstein's most valuable possession, his compass. Einstein taught Theo so much in just such a little time. Theo was glad to have spent time with him,

Response explains Theo's feelings about being with Albert Einstein but lacks some development/specific details from the story as support.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

I think Theo feels excited because he is the "most famous man alive", but I also think he feels nervous because Theo's neck, and cheeks get all hot, and because Theo wants to impress Herr, and not disappoint him.

Partially explains Theo's feelings about being with Albert Einstein but lacks development/specific details from the story as support.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

Theo feels very honored to be in the presence of "the most famous man alive." When Einstein asked Theo to go sailing, Theo's ears and face were red. Theo thought he would mess something up. He also thought important because he had retrieved the compass for Einstein.

Partially explains Theo's feelings about being with Albert Einstein but lacks development/specific details from the story as support.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

When Theo sees him he feels hot on his face. He is excited to be around him. He might be happy that he gets to meet the most famous man alive.

Minimal response to how Theo feels about being with Albert Einstein.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

4. Theo feels excited and nervous about being in the company of the "most famous man alive" because he is worried he will disappoint him.

Minimal response to how Theo feels about being with Albert Einstein.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

Because Theo saved Ensteins Compass
and the compass ment alot to Enstein.

Irrelevant response to how Theo feels about Albert Einstein.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

Theo feels cool because he ^{nose} ~~nose~~ everybody
and they like him. he likes to study.

Irrelevant response to how Theo feels about Albert Einstein.

Reading

Session 3

Margaret Bourke-White was an important twentieth-century photographer. Read this article about Margaret Bourke-White, and then answer the questions that follow.

Margaret Bourke-White, American Photographer **1904–1971**

Students read a selection titled “Margaret Bourke-White, American Photographer” and then answered questions that followed. Due to copyright restrictions, the passage cannot be released to the public over the Internet. For more information, see the copyright citation below.

Margaret Bourke-White, American Photographer. Copyright © 2003 by Measured Progress.

67. Explain how **two** experiences from Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer. Support your explanation with details and examples from the article.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response thoroughly explains how two experiences from Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer. Response is developed and includes details and examples from the article as support.
3	Response explains how two experiences from Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer. Response lacks some development and/or details and examples from the article as support.
2	Response explains how two experiences from Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer. Response is partial, uses weak support from the article, and may contain some misunderstandings or be unclear, or Response explains how one experience from Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer. Response lacks some development and/or details and examples from the article as support.
1	Response gives a minimal or vague statement about how Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Guide (*continued*)

Margaret's experiences as a youth	How the experience influenced her work as a photographer
She helped her father develop film in the family bathtub (he was an amateur photographer).	Fostered an interest in photography and provided for her some familiarity with the art form.
She enjoyed nature walks with her father.	She used this inspiration in college to earn money by taking photos.
She visited a foundry with her father. She saw beauty in the steel and with the machines.	This piqued her interest in photographing machines in foundries, factories, and mills.
Her mother taught her how to confront problems head-on, like her fear of the dark, by bringing her outside at night.	This helped Margaret develop an interest for bravery and adventure.
She took a photography class at the Clarence H. White School of Photography.	Here she learned about photographic style.
She took photographs of the Columbia campus.	This allowed her to explore varying subject matter and what interested her.
She founded the Bourke-White studio while living in Cleveland.	This advanced her professional career by giving her the business and photography experience that presumably made her an attractive candidate for Fortune and LIFE magazines.
As a young adult, she worked by day taking photographs of homes and gardens, and on nights and weekends took photographs of steel mills.	This furthered her experience with this genre.

Accept other experiences as a youth that are supported by information in the passage.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

Two experiences from Margaret's youth influenced her work as a photographer. One of those experiences was her relationship with her parents, especially her father. He encouraged her love of learning, and he actually was the first one to show her about photography. (He was an amateur photographer who developed pictures in his bathtub.) Margaret's father definitely pushed her beyond society's limits on women's jobs. Another childhood experience that influenced Margaret's photography was her love of nature. This story tells about how a father robin even trusted Margaret enough to feed his baby from the palm of her hand. This love of nature brought Margaret to Columbia University to study herpetology, and that fueled her interest in photography. So, the two childhood experiences that most influenced Margaret's photography was her relationship with her father and love of nature.

Thoroughly explains two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work, with specific relevant details from the text.

Margaret was influenced to become a photographer during her youth when her father would develop the pictures he took of nature in the family bath tub. She loved to help take pictures with her father and then help develop them. From this she learned how to develop and take photos. When in college she sold her photos. Margaret's father also inspired her later pictures by taking her to steel foundries. Margaret believed the huge steel foundries created great beauty, and she was utterly fascinated by the working of the machines. Once she became a professional photographer she took pictures of the harsh working conditions in factories in Russia and India for Life magazine. Margaret loved taking cool, elegant pictures.

Thoroughly explains two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work, with specific relevant details from the text.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

I think that two experiences from Margaret's youth that influenced her work as a photographer were developing the pictures with her dad because it exposed her to the art of photography, which wasn't something many women were exposed to back then. It also helped her to go on to start, with the knowledge from her father, taking and selling her own photographs, and then on to enroll in a photography class at the Clarence H. White School of Photography. My other experience is taking the nature walks with her parents and her adventurous attitude. I think this had a big influence because she did develop her adventurous, brave, and courageous personality. These walks also taught her about the beauty of nature.

Response explains two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work but lacks some details/development from the text.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

A Margaret had wanted to become a photographer every since she was a child. One of these reasons, and probably the best, is her father. Her father was an amateur photographer and would take pictures of nature walks they would take. Then she helped him develop the film in their kitchen. Another reason for Margaret to want to be a photographer was that when she entered school she took pictures of the campus and students. Then she would sell them to the students for money. When she retired she could make money off her photos. She wanted to be a famous photographer. Both of these reasons were very helpful in the career of Margaret Bourke-White.

Response explains two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work but lacks some details/development from the text.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Margaret had a love for animals and nature. He father took pictures of nature walks and that influenced he to become a photographer. They developed film in bath tubs and she thought it was fun. She could become rich and famous and that was her dream. That is why she became a photographer.

Response explains one/two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work but lacks some details/development from the text.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

Two experiences from Margarets youth that influenced her to become a photographer were helping her dad develop film in their bathtub and going on nature walks with her father while he photographed these are two experiences that I think influenced her at a young age to become a photographer

Response explains one/two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work but lacks some details/development from the text.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

A: Her parents let her do more adventures things than "normal" girls by playing in the dark. She also played with cameras with her father.

Minimal statements about one/two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

When her father asked her to help develop photographs in the tub world when she and her father took pictures of the outdoors.

Minimal statement about one/two experiences from Margaret's youth which influenced her work.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

Margret White was a photographer
and she went to college and she
had elegance

Irrelevant response to the prompt.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

She was always faithful to her work and had
lots of courage

Irrelevant response to the prompt.

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